

WHEN GOD SPEAKS...Walk By Faith

Joshua 1:5-9

I. GOD'S PERSON: (vs. 1) Joshua

Joshua...Heb. *Y'hosua*, means *Yahweh saves* or *Yahweh is salvation*. His name very adequately describes what God used Joshua to do...namely *to save His people* by conquering Canaan and apportioning the land to Israel as their *promised homeland*.

"So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them, 'I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and the Lord has said to me, "You shall not cross this Jordan." It is the Lord your God who will cross ahead of you; He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, just as the Lord has spoken. The Lord will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. The Lord will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you'."

~Deuteronomy 31:1-6

As Joshua faced the tremendous task of conquering Canaan, he needed a fresh word of encouragement...*he needed to hear God*.

- Joshua was a SERVANT. He had a *servant's spirit* and a *servant's heart*.

Servant...Heb. *sharath*, literally means *minister* (Joshua 24:29).

Exodus 24:13; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 11:28.

- Joshua was a MAN of FAITH.

From personal experience and observation, Joshua knew that the Canaanites and others were a forceful people who lived in *strongly fortified cities* (Numbers 13:28-29). But he also knew that God had promised Israel the land. *He trusted God!*

Difference between *presumption* and *faith...knowing that God has spoken*.

- Joshua was OBEDIENT to God.

He was *commanded to observe the Law* (Joshua 1:7-8; Matthew 5:17).

Joshua's life demonstrates that in a practical way he lived according to the teachings of the **Law of Moses**. This alone explains the victories he achieved in battle and the success that marked his entire life and career.

Have success (vs. 7)...means to *act wisely* or *to be prudent*. A command that is based on *God's power through His Word*. A picture that illustrates that it requires *greater strength of character to obey God's Word* faithfully and fully...than one to win military battles.

II. GOD'S PRESENCE: (vs. 5, 9)

I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you...For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

- I will be with you. Heb. *im*...means to *accompany beside*.

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us'."

~Matthew 1:23

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

~John 14:16-18

- I will not fail you or forsake you.

Will not fail you...Heb. *raphah*, means to *not be faint or feeble*.

Nor forsake you...Heb. *azab*, means to *not relinquish...to fortify*. It means...*I will not drop or abandon you*.

"...For He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?'"

~Hebrews 13:5-6

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that

they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

~Matthew 6:25-34

- For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

*"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, **You are there**; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, **You are there**."*

~Psalm 139:7-8

"Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares the Lord..."

~Jeremiah 23:24

III. GOD'S PLEA (vs. 6-7, 9...and later in vs. 18)

Be strong and courageous...Only be strong and very courageous...Be strong and courageous.

"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, 'Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed'."

~Deuteronomy 31:6-8

- Be STRONG (vs. 6, 7, 9, 18)

Strong...literally means *fortitude...endurance*.

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

~I Corinthians 16:13-14

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

~I Corinthians 15:58

- Be COURAGEOUS.

Courageous...This command is again based on *God's power* through *His Word*.

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

~II Corinthians 5:6-8

The call to be strong and courageous was based on the promise of *God's presence*. Joshua would encounter *giants* and *fortified cities*...but *God's presence* would make all the difference!

IV. GOD'S PROMISE: (vs. 3, 5-6)

The difference between **Old Testament theology** and **New Testament theology**...

Old Testament theology...*If you obey Me...then I will bless you.*

New Testament theology...*Since I have blessed you...will you obey Me?*

I have given it to...No man will be able to stand before you...For you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

"The Lord your God has given you this land to possess it...Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings; so the Lord shall do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross. Do not fear them, for the Lord your God is the one fighting for you."

~Deuteronomy 3:18, 21-22

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS PASSAGE? Key...verses 7-8.

God speaks through His Word. You want to come under the Lordship of Christ...it begins with His Word!

- **OBEDIENT** to the Word. Live in *submission* to Scripture!
Read it...regularly.
Study it...continually.
Believe it...totally.
Follow it...obediently.
- **FAITHFUL** to the Word.
- **RESPECT** the Word.
- **MEDITATE** on the Word. Means to *murmur to one's self*, to *utter*.
It's the picture of a cow ruminating (chewing the cud).

Believers throughout the ages can be uplifted by the same assurances that God gave **Joshua**. Assurances that last a life time. The assurance of *His promise...His power...and His presence*.

Deuteronomy 6

“O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed your precepts...Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

~Psalm 119:97-100, 105